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Press Release

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Texas Wins *Site Selection* Magazine's Governor's Cup Award for 2005

Atlanta, March 2, 2006: Texas has won the 2005 *Site Selection* Governor's Cup, which the 52-year-old Atlanta-based magazine awards annually to the U.S. state with the most new and expanded corporate facilities as tracked by Conway Data Inc.'s New Plant database. Conway Data publishes *Site Selection*, the oldest publication in the corporate real estate and economic development field, and the official publication of the Industrial Asset Management Council (IAMC, at www.iamc.org). *Site Selection*'s yearly analyses are regarded by corporate real estate analysts as "the industry scoreboard." The magazine's circulation base consists of 44,000 executives involved in corporate site selection decisions, most at the CEO/President/COO level.

Texas claims the 2005 Governor's Cup with 842 projects. It also claimed the award in 2005 for the most new projects announced in 2004. Ohio came in second this year with 598 projects, followed by



Illinois (510), Michigan (505) and North Carolina (412). *Site Selection* also ranks state business climates in its November issue; Texas ranked second nationally in 2005.

2005 Top 10 Metros by Number of Projects		
Rank	Metro	Count
1	Chicago/Naperville/ Joliet – Ill./Ind./Wis.	389
2	Dallas/Fort Worth/ Arlington – Texas	309
3	Houston/Baytown/ Sugar Land – Texas	214
4	Detroit/Warren/Livonia – Mich.	208
5	Atlanta/Sandy Springs/ Marietta – Ga.	133
6	Cincinnati/Middletown – Ohio/Ky./Ind.	115
7	New York/Newark/ Edison – N.Y./N.J./Pa.	102
8	Cleveland/Elyria/Mentor, – Ohio	101
9	Charlotte/Gastonia/ Concord – N.C./S.C.	96
10	Minneapolis/St.Paul/ Bloomington – Minn./Wis.	95

Source: Conway Data, Inc.'s New Plant Database

“We’re still taking aggressive steps to ensure that this state remains business friendly,” Gov. Rick Perry told *Site Selection* upon learning of Texas’ repeat win. Citing recent work in the areas of tort reform, workers’ compensation reform and work-force development, Perry pointed to tax reform now under way in Texas resulting from a state Supreme Court decision declaring the current system for funding education unconstitutional. “We want a tax system that is very broad based, that is as light on the job creators in Texas as can be, but that modernizes or gets away from the capital intensives being the ones paying all the property taxes,” he says.

Referring to Texas’ performance in the 2005 facilities race, Gov. Perry points to a growing manufacturing sector and a robust service sector as well as increased investment in his state’s rural areas. “Our economic development focus is not just for the major metropolitan areas,” he says. “Quality of life and cost of doing business are assets that rural Texas has that are very appealing to companies.”

The metropolitan areas performed strongly in 2005, too. *Site Selection* also ranks U.S. metro areas and micropolitans in its March issue. The Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington was the number two Metro with 309 announced projects in 2005, and the Houston-Baytown-Sugar Land metro placed third (see below).

2005 Top 10 Micropolitans by Number of Projects		
Rank	Micropolitan Area	Count
1	Statesville-Mooresville, N.C.	40
2	Tupelo, Miss.	25
3	Batavia, N.Y.	17
4	Lexington-Thomasville, N.C.	16
T5	Cullman, Ala.	14
T5	Lincolnton, N.C.	14
T7	Plattsburgh, N.Y.	11
T7	Greeneville, Tenn.	11
9	Marion, Ind.	10
T10	Celina, Ohio	9
T10	Wapakoneta, Ohio	9

Count includes new and expanded facilities.
Source: Conway Data, Inc.'s New Plant Database

The magazine's New Plant database focuses on new *corporate* location projects with significant impact. It does not track retail and government projects, or schools and hospitals. New facilities and expansions included in the analyses must meet at least one of three criteria: (a) involve a capital investment of at least US\$1 million, (b) create at least 50 new jobs or (c) add at least 20,000 sq. ft. (1,858 sq. m.) of new floor area.

"Texas' repeat claim to the Governor's Cup is evidence that economic development strategies for creating a healthy business climate in the state are working," says Mark Arend, editor of *Site Selection*. "Two Texas metro areas finishing in the top three Top Metros ranking and significant investment in rural projects show that those strategies are working statewide."

More New Plant Tallies

The Top Metros for new and expanded facilities in 2005 were Chicago, Dallas-Fort. Worth, Houston, Detroit, Atlanta, Cincinnati, New York City/Newark, Cleveland, Charlotte and Minneapolis. The magazine introduced the Top Micropolitans, which are cities of 10,000 to 50,000 people and cover at least one county, in its March 2005 issue. The top three micropolitans for 2005 are Statesville-Mooresville, N.C.; Tupelo, Miss.; and Batavia, N.Y. And 2005's Top Industries for total new and expanded facilities were transportation equipment, chemicals, fabricated metal products manufacturing, food processing and plastics.

2005 Top Industries <i>by Number of Projects</i>			
Industry	New	Exp.	Tot.
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	231	318	549
Chemicals/Pharmaceuticals	226	198	424
Fabricated Metal Products Mfg.	118	223	341
Food Processing	125	202	327
Plastics and Rubber Products Mfg.	117	178	295

Source: Conway Data, Inc.'s New Plant Database

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